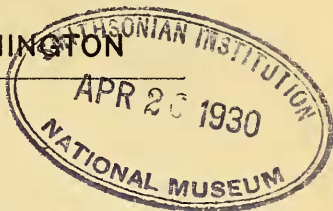


PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON



DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SUBSPECIES OF BEAVER.

BY E. W. NELSON.

The mammal collection of the Biological Survey contains several specimens which appear to represent a previously undescribed subspecies of beaver. So far as known, it is peculiar to the drainage basin of the Humboldt River in Nevada, and probably also that of the neighboring Carson River, although no specimens are available to determine this.

This new geographic subspecies is most nearly related to *Castor canadensis frondator* of the Colorado River drainage, as shown by specimens from northern and eastern Arizona. It is darker than *frondator* and has a slenderer skull. From *C. c. leucodontus* from the Columbia River drainage in eastern Washington and Oregon it differs in its distinctly paler color and slenderer skull. The skull of the new subspecies differs much more from that of *C. c. subauratus*, its nearest neighbor geographically, on the western side of the Sierra Nevada, than from those of the two other subspecies named above. The narrow skull and especially the rostrum of the Humboldt River beaver contrasting strongly with the massive skull and broad heavy rostrum of *subauratus*.

This beaver is named in honor of Mr. Vernon Bailey, of the Biological Survey in recognition of his field and technical studies of the beavers which have added largely to our knowledge of these interesting animals.

All measurements are in millimeters.

Castor canadensis baileyi, subsp. nov.

HUMBOLDT RIVER BEAVER.

Type from the Humboldt River, 4 miles above Winnemucca, Nevada; No. 228006, ♂ adult, U. S. National Museum (Biological Survey collection), collected by J. R. Bunch, October 13, 1917.

General characters.—Color nearest that of *frondator* but a little darker; distinctly paler than *leucodontus*; skull comparatively light and narrow with much narrower and slenderer rostrum than in either *frondator*, *leucodontus* or *subauratus*.

Color of type in fall pelage.—Upperparts dull rusty chestnut, brightest on crown with a dull yellowish shade on the cheeks; ears dark brown; base of tail all around uniform with adjacent parts of body; tops of hind feet dark chestnut; underparts of body dull drab brown.

Measurements of type.—Total length, 1064; tail, 254 (length of naked part, dry, 241, width, 135); hind foot, 183; ear (dry), 24. *Skull:* Condylbasal length, 133.2; greatest zygomatic breadth, 92.2; breadth of braincase, 42.2; breadth of interorbital constriction, 22.3; breadth of rostrum at base, 29; length of nasals, 48.7; greatest breadth of nasals, 21.1; alveolar length, upper molar series, 31.2.

Eight specimens examined, all from Nevada. Winnemucca, 5 skins and skulls; Iron Point, 1 skin and skull; Golconda, 1 skull; Deeth, 1 skull.